

## **FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Public Safety Training Center  
5370 Public Safety Place  
Frederick, MD 21704

### **MINUTES of November 29, 2016 Meeting**

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Mari Lee, David Kaye, Lisa Clark, Kavonte' Duckett, Francisco Alves, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Annette Breiling, Adam Book, Lee Wisner, Irene Packer-Halsey, Gene Stanton and Roger Sobkowiak.

Liaison members Jet Reid and Donna Kuzemchak were present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Chief Edward Hargis and Lt. Thomas Tokarz.

IV. All present were invited to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance if they wished.

V. The October 2016 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. Irene Packer-Halsey moved to correct the minutes to show that of the 9 recruits currently in the FPD Academy, 2 were women and 1 was Latino. With that correction, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, which passed unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Lt. Tokarz reported that the FPD Police Athletic League program is going smoothly. Chief Hargis said that a new Chief's Forum for local students and their parents will begin tomorrow evening.

VII. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$4,111.35 in funds on hand.

VIII. Officers' Reports: Discussion took place about the upcoming Legislative Luncheon and Human Rights Day event on December 7 at the Bernard Brown Center. Members were informed about the program and encouraged to attend.

The Post-Forum Round Table that had been scheduled for December 1 at Lucas Village was cancelled and will be rescheduled in 2017.

IX. Old Business: Mari Lee said that the HRC is continuing to use Dropbox to keep members up to date on flyers, documents and other information about HRC activities and other community events.

Mari Lee reported that work is still underway on the first issue of the HRC's Quarterly Newsletter. Plans include a story on the Maryland Attorney General's hate crime hot line.

X. HRD Director's Report: Miles Ward reported that the HRD has received several recent inquiries, and asked that the HRC consider ways to respond to concerns about increased hostility towards members of various minority groups in the community. One email asked if the HRC had a list of minority owned businesses in Frederick County that could be used to reach out to people, build bridges and try to reassure them. That person referred to the results of the recent election as being one of the causes for her interest. Members who spoke indicated that they did not favor creating a list of minority owned businesses because it might be used later to retaliate against them. Donna Kuzemchak cautioned that members should be talking about these issues as they related to equality rather than to politics. The consensus was that specific, individual concerns about hostile actions could be considered as they arose, but no organized effort by the HRC to create a list of minority owned businesses should be undertaken now.

XI. New Business: It was reported that the HRC brochure has been translated into Spanish. A link to it will be added to the HRC's webpage and copies will be brought to the next HRC meeting in January.

A motion was made to change the time for the HRC's monthly meetings to 6:00 pm. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Kavonte' Duckett and seconded by David Kaye, for the HRC to sponsor the MLK Beloved Community Potluck on January 16. Sponsorship will involve listing the HRC on the flyers for this event, but not involve expending funds. The motion was approved unanimously, and members were encouraged to attend and support this great event.

Annette Breiling said that a number of themes and topics are being considered for the program at the MLK Beloved Community Potluck, including: heightened concerns about targeting people in certain groups, mass incarceration of black and brown people, pre-trial bail issues and white privilege.

Lisa Clark reported on plans for the MLK Day of Service activities that will take place on January 16. From 10 am until 2 pm volunteers will gather at the American Karate Academy on East Street in Frederick to prepare "happy hats" for children in hospitals and blankets for cancer survivors. The HRC is listed as a sponsor of this event, along with A STAR! in Western Maryland, AmeriCorps, United Way and others. Members are encouraged to attend, since this project is this quarter's designated HRC service project.

A motion was made to purchase advertising space in the program for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance & Awards Luncheon being held January 14, 2017 in Frederick. David Kaye made a motion that was seconded by Gene Stanton, to buy a half-page ad for the HRC at a cost of \$50. Approval was by unanimous vote.

Annette Breiling asked the HRC to consider supporting the Frederick County Student Peace Awards again this year by donating \$100. Thirteen schools will participate in the program this

year, which is sponsored by the Friends Meeting School and a number of other local organizations. A student from each school will receive \$100, with that same amount given to a charity of the student's choosing. So a total of \$2,600 will need to be raised. Kavonte' Duckett moved to do so and Lisa Clark seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

XII. Announcements and upcoming events: Mari Lee said that the HRC holiday potluck will take place on December 13, starting at 6:00 pm at the Public Safety Training Center. Members were encouraged to purchase tickets and attend a fundraiser for the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership (SHIP) of Frederick County on Dec. 7.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned.